Session Title: Making Global Connections: Warli Art of India

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Day / Time / Place: Saturday, March 4  11:00 – 12:50  Hilton Hotel (Holland Room, 4th Floor)

LESSON PLAN:

Vocabulary: culture, tradition, blending, Warli, narrative, pattern, repetition, abstract, geometric forms, revenue, economics, mud huts, terra cotta, celebrations, two dimensional

Materials: wax paper, variety of small brushes, newspaper to cover tables, acrylic paint (white and brown), white crayons or white pencils, world map, brown construction paper, 8” x 8” squares of muslin, pencils, erasers

Lesson #1 - Day 1 (40 minute lesson):

Materials: world map, handouts 1 – 3 (for teacher),

1) Locate India on map. Talk about what countries it is near and compare size with other countries.
2) Distribute index cards randomly to students. Ask questions and students respond by reading answers from card. First set of questions deal with general information about India. Second set of questions are specific to Warli art (handout #1). (I use 2 colors of index cards for each set of questions.)
3) Read info about Warli people. (handout #2)
4) Complete practice sheets. Have students look at the handout sheets and describe the shapes they see. Have a few students come to the board and draw some of the figures or buildings (handouts #3 and #4). Keep Practice Sheets for Lessons #3 and #4.

Lesson #2 - Day 2 (40 minute lesson):

1) Distribute 9 x 12 construction paper and white crayons or white pencils to plan for final art piece on cloth. Look at practice sheets from Lesson #1 for ideas.

Lesson #3 – Day 3 (40 minute lesson):

1) Distribute a piece of wax paper, square of cloth, and wide paint brush to each student. Instruct students to put their name with sharpie on the wax paper. Set out containers of brown acrylic paint. Using the brown acrylic and painting in one direction, have each student cover their cloth with the brown paint. Set aside to dry.
2) Using plan sheets from Lesson #2, have students write a brief story about their drawings.

Lesson #4 – Days 4 and 5 (40 minute lesson):

1) Distribute painted cloths, small containers of thinned acrylic white paint, and planning sheet to each student. Have students choose 2 – 3 small brushes. Looking at planning sheet, paint picture onto cloth.
2) Remind students it is best to work from center of cloth to outer edge to prevent smearing. Allow to dry. Staple to tagboard or stiff paper background.
General information about India:

1) What is the main language of India? The main language is Hindi. English is taught in most schools starting in grade 2.

2) What are the main foods of India? The main foods in India are curry, rice, lentil, yogurt, and chapatti. Chapati is a thin pancake of unleavened bread cooked on a griddle.


4) How long must children attend school in India? By law, children must remain in school until age 14. However, many girls leave school before that age. India has many private and public schools.

5) What is Hindi writing called? Hindi writing is called: devanagari script. A line is written over the individual letters to signify a word.

6) What is the weather like in India? Weather in most of India is warm to very hot. The coolest months are December – January.

7) Who is Mother Therese? Mother Therese was a nun that worked with the poor people in Calcutta, India. She lived from 1910-1997. Her goal was to eliminate girls poverty through education.

Warli Art Information:

1) How old is Warli art? Warli art is one of the most ancient forms of art known to civilizations.

2) Who are the Warli tribes? The Warli people are farmers who shun the outside world. They use old farming methods without fertilizers.

3) Where do Warli people live? Warli’s are tribes that live in foothills of the mountains of India.

4) How are crops stored? When the rainy season is over, crops are sun dried and fill huge storage bins in their huts.

5) When is Warli art done? After crops are dried and stored, the Warli people repair their huts and do new Warli paintings.

6) How are Warli paintings done? What is used? The paintings are done using rice paste as paint and bamboo or twigs as paintbrushes.

7) What shapes are used when doing Warli art? Most Warli art is done using lines, dots, and triangles.

8) How are men and women shown in Warli art? In Warli art, women are shown with a round shape added to their heads for a head bun. This is the only difference between male and female forms.

9) What does Warli art show? Warli art tells the cycle of each families life. It could show birth, marriage, death, seasons, and everyday life.

10) Why no writing (alphabet) in Warli art? Early Warli tribes did not have an alphabet. Stories were recorded using simple pictures.

Handout #3  Check internet for current information about the Warli people that will fit with the grade level you are teaching.